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2 December 1955

MOUNTING VIOLENCE ON CYPRUS

I. Violence has increased in range and intensity on Cyprus during the last two weeks.

A. Nationalist extremists apparently have decided upon guerilla warfare against the British.

B. They have ambushed British military patrols and attacked military posts and military vehicles: at least 5 British soldiers have been killed and many more wounded.

C. The Cypriot nationalist's terrorist organization (EOKA) appears well-organized and trained.

1. EOKA ("Organization of Cypriot Fighters for Freedom") ~~probably has only a couple of hundred active operatives,~~ ~~but it~~ has unlimited reserves among the island's 410,000 ethnic Greeks.

2. EOKA reportedly operates sabotage schools, to provide for steady reinforcement and buildup of its forces.

D. Intensified violence on the island stems from two recent developments:

1. The Cyprus Supreme Court's refusal (on 14 November) to review the death sentence passed on Cypriot convicted of killing British soldier (Date of execution has not yet been set);

2. The British declaration of "state of emergency" on 26 November.

II. The nationalists apparently expect that continued violence will force British concessions on self-determination for the island.

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NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS, S, C
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 2010
AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE: 2/2/00
REVIEWER: 006514

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A. Both spreading terrorism and increasingly severe UK repressive measures appear probable.

1. We can expect both assassination attempts against top British officials and increasing clashes between terrorist bands and British units (12,500 regulars, 2,500 ^{police} ~~security troops~~).

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C. Thus far, the only incident involving US personnel [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] was on 24 November, when a bomb was thrown at a pickup truck driven by an American. No damage resulted, and the driver gained the impression from the "demonstrators" (to whom he protested) that he had been mistaken for a Britisher.

1. Nonetheless, US vehicles are being kept off roads at night and personnel remain indoors. Extended duty periods in US installations (from 4:00 P.M. to 8:00 A.M.) (are being taken by the single men, who eat and sleep at stations. Our officials estimate that there has been some deterioration of service.
2. There is no indication as yet that US personnel will

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be attacked by the terrorists, although the possibility of accidental involvement naturally concerns American civilians and dependents.

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